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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/809,649	03/25/2004	Earl David Forrest	60137-238; 445-3115-U	7491

26096 7590 03/08/2005

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BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009

EXAMINER

JACKSON, ANDRE L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3677

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/809,649

Applicant(s)

FORREST ET AL.

Examiner

Andre' L. Jackson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 19 and 20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 8-11 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-7, 12-16 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/25/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

Claims 7 and 16 are objected to because of the following informalities: In line 2, insert -- of said -- after "spacing". Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 3,994,608 to Swiderski et al. Swiderski et al discloses a control knob comprising;

a control knob (18) having an inner bore (22), the inner bore being non-cylindrical; an intermediate member (38) having an inner bore (40) to receive a shaft (16), the intermediate member having a non-cylindrical outer periphery; and the non-cylindrical bore and the non-cylindrical outer periphery mating to provide a contact surface such that rotation of the control knob rotates the intermediate member.

As to claims 2, 3, 8 and 9, the intermediate member has a plurality of spaced lobes (projections on either side of channel 44) extending from the outer periphery that fit into notches (grooves on either side of projection 24) formed in the bore of the knob. As seen in Fig. 1, the lobes include a ribbed outer surface, with side ribs (50, 52) extending circumferentially outwardly of a central leg portion (56) and a forward rib (48) extending forwardly of the central leg portion.

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 10, 11 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 4,179,771 to Rankins et al. Rankins et al discloses a knob comprising;

a molded knob (11) having a particular appearance, and a bore (19) with an inner periphery that is non-cylindrical; and a plurality of intermediate members (47, 67), the intermediate members having a central bore (37, 58) designed to receive a shaft (15), the intermediate members having a non-cylindrical outer periphery; the non-cylindrical bore and the non-cylindrical outer periphery mating to provide a contact surface such that rotation of the control knob rotates the intermediate member.

As to claims 11 and 17, the intermediate members are split defining free ends, which include lobes (49) and notches (above the intermediate members) are formed at the bore of the knob.

#### *Allowable Subject Matter*

Claims 4-7, 12-16 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 19 and 20 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:  
The prior art does not render obvious an assembly of a universal knob comprising the steps of; providing a plurality of intermediate members each having an inner bore to correspond to a particular shaft, the intermediate members having an outer periphery that is non-cylindrical and

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that mates with a non-cylindrical shape of the knob; selecting a particular one of the intermediate members to correspond to a particular shaft and assembling the intermediate member onto a shaft, and assembling the knob onto the intermediate member.

### *Conclusion*

Additional references are cited on the PTO 892 form but were not used to determine patentability of this application instead the references gave background information on the construction of control knob assemblies.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre' L. Jackson whose telephone number is (703) 605-4276. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. (10 am - 6 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy J. Swann can be reached on (703) 306-4115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ALJ

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PRIMARY EXAMINER